

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner consider the claims as amended in this Preliminary Amendment for examination purposes. Entry of this Preliminary Amendment is respectfully requested. Claims 1-18 are pending. Support for the amendments can be found, for example, in at least the following locations: the original claims.

CONCLUSION

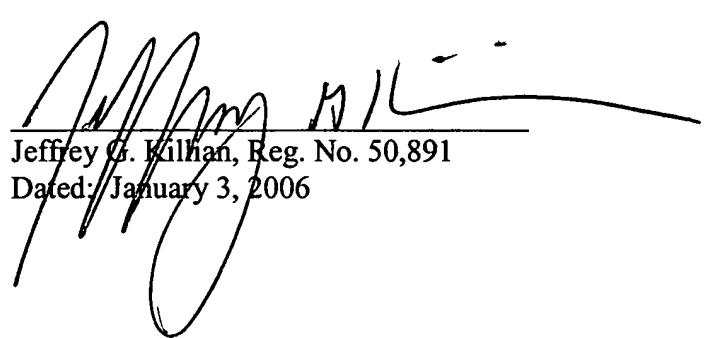
If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this Preliminary Amendment, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0573. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: January 3, 2006

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